

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/613,771

Examiner

W. Patty Chen

Applicant(s)

KASAJIMA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on Dec. 13, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8,15,16,20-27,29 and 30.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/12/06
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The Amendment filed on Dec. 13, 2006 has been entered. Claims 9 and 10 are cancelled per the Amendment filed, therefore, claims 8, 15, 16, 20-27, 29 and 30 remain pending in the current application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The title of the application has been amended as follows: Display device and electronic equipment having the same comprising a region for reflecting a polarized light and a region for absorbing the polarized light.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8, 15-16, 20-27 and 29-30 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 8: Nishino et al. disclose in Figure 1 a display device comprising:
a display unit for forming a predetermined display mode; and

a display switching unit overlapping the display unit at least in one portion, wherein the display switching unit includes first polarization component (element 14) selecting means, polarized-light transmitting axis changing means (element 3), and second polarization component selecting means (element 4) sequentially disposed from the display unit toward an observation side,

the first polarization component selecting means transmits a first polarization component and reflects a second polarization component having a polarization axis intersecting with a polarization axis of the first polarization component (Paragraph 0004),

the polarized-light transmitting axis changing means is switchable between a state of transmitting light after changing the first polarization component into the second polarization component and a state of transmitting light without substantially changing the polarization axis of the incident light (Paragraph 0003),

the second polarization component selecting means transmits one of the first polarization component and the second polarization component and absorbs or reflects the other polarization component, and

the display unit emits the first polarization component for forming the display mode.

Arikawa et al. (US 6201770) disclose in Figures 1 and 7 a display device comprising a first region (element 12a), a second region (element 12b) and a third region (element 12c), each selectively transmits and reflects specific polarized lights.

However, Nishino et al. And Arikawa et al. fail to disclose that the display switching unit is provided with a region including the first polarization component selecting means and a region

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including a third polarization component selecting means for transmitting the first polarization component and for absorbing the second polarization component.

Therefore, claim 8 is deemed non-obvious and inventive over the prior art and thus is allowed.

Regarding claim 15: None of the prior art of record either alone in combination fairly teach or suggest a display device wherein the display switching unit is provided with a region including the first polarization component selecting means and a region including a third polarization component selecting means for transmitting the first polarization component and for absorbing the second polarization component.

Therefore, claim 15 is deemed non-obvious and inventive over the prior arts, hence, is allowed.

As to claims 16, 20-27 and 29-30: since claims 16, 20-27 and 29-30 depend either directly or indirectly on the allowed claim 15, thus are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to W. Patty Chen whose telephone number is (571)272-8444. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David C. Nelms can be reached on (571)272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

W. Patty Chen
Examiner
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WPC
4/23/07


ANDREW SCHECHTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER